UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CLIFTON BENNETT DARE AND JULIAN DUANE HALL, OF EL CAJON, CALIFORNIA.

BARREL OR CRATE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 504,445, dated September 5, 1893.

Application filed November 3, 1892. Serial No. 450,845. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, CLIFTON BENNETT DARE and JULIAN DUANE HALL, citizens of the United States, residing at El Cajon, in the county of San Diego and State of California, have invented a new and useful Barrel or Crate, of which the following is a specification.

Our invention relates to improvements in the construction of barrels, crates and boxes; the objects in view being to produce a device of this character that may be constructed so as to provide for a thorough ventilation of the contents during shipment, and hence their preservation; that is capable of being readily handled in the same manner as an ordinary barrel, if the invention be applied to such article; and which may be reduced in size as the contents thereof are dispensed or removed, and materially reduced and telescoped when emptied for the purpose of shipment back to the sender or shipper.

With these and various other objects in view the invention consists in certain features of construction hereinafter specified, and particularly pointed out in the claims.

Referring to the drawings—Figure 1 is a side elevation of a barrel constructed in accordance with our invention, the same being extended its full length as in the act of shipping fruit or other articles. Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view. Fig. 3 is a side elevation, the barrel collapsed or telescoped for reshipment to the original shipper. Fig. 4 is an elevation of a box or crate constructed in accordance with our invention. Fig. 5 is a detail in side elevation of one of the vertical stay-rods and ring.

Like numerals indicate like parts in all the figures of the drawings.

In practicing our invention, as when constructing a barrel, we prefer to employ three sections which we have indicated as 1, 2 and 3, the latter being the bottom section. These sections may be constructed of any suitable material, such as reticulated-wire, papier-maché, or any other material that is light and tough, and when constructed of other than reticulated-wire, the said material is preferably provided with slits or perforations sufficiently minute to prevent the entrance of insects and yet permit of a thorough circulation of air throughout the contents. The sections 1 and 2 are bottomless, and the three sections decrease in size from top to bottom, the upper section at its bottom being slightly larger than the second section at its upper end; and the second section at its bottom being slightly larger than the third section at its upper end, so that as will be obvious, the three sections may be telescoped, the upper section receiving the lower ones. The upper section near its upper edge is encircled by a metal strap or hoop 4, and the lower section at its lower edge is encircled by a similar strap or hoop 5. A ring 6, also encircles the upper edge of the section 1 immediately above the hoop 4, and to this ring is secured the upper edge of the section 1. A second ring 7 encircles the lower edge of the section 1, the outer edge of said ring projecting beyond the exterior of the section 1 while the inner edge projects beyond the interior thereof. The section 2 is received by the ring 7, and has its exterior at its upper edge provided with a narrow ring 8 corresponding to the ring 6 of the upper section and being arranged above the ring 7 of said upper section is designed to abut thereagainst when the sections are drawn out from each other. The bottom of the section 2 is encircled by a metal ring 9, whose external diameter is the same as the ring 7 and the ring 6, but whose internal diameter is somewhat less than that of the ring 7 and of the bottom of the section 2, so that while the outer periphery of the ring 9 projects beyond the exterior of the section 2, the inner periphery projects beyond the interior of the section 2. The section 3, like the section 2, has its outer edge encircled by the inner periphery of the ring 9, and above the same is provided with a ring 10, which rests upon the ring 9 when the sections are distended. 11 designates the bottom ring, whose external diameter is the same as the rings 6, 7 and 9, and upon this rests the bottom section 3.

Each of the rings 9, 7 and 6 is provided at corresponding points with narrow slots 12, and through these slots pass connecting strips or standards 13, there being a series of them employed, in this instance four in number. The lower ends of the standards or strips are